

The Claims

1. In combination with a building having an enclosed space, a bottom floor, and an outside wall having an opening above ground level, apparatus for conditioning
5 air within the enclosed space, the apparatus comprising first conduit means having an air outlet and connected to said wall opening for discharging air through said wall opening to the exterior of the building and further having an air inlet end, a fan means adjacent the bottom
10 floor and connected to said air end of said first conduit means for removing air from the bottom floor level and discharging the air through said conduit means and the wall opening to the exterior of the building, and the apparatus further comprising a humidifier
15 connected in fluid communication with the air inlet end of said first conduit means, second conduit means having one end open to the enclosed space, and a control valve for connecting the opposite end of said second conduit means to said first conduit means between the air outlet
20 and the air inlet end thereof, said control valve having a first state allowing fluid flow from the air inlet end of said first conduit means to the air outlet thereof and blocking flow to said second conduit means and having a second state allowing flow from the air inlet
25 end of said first conduit means through said second conduit means and blocking flow to the air outlet of said first conduit means whereby when said control valve is in said first state said apparatus provides dehumidification of air in the enclosed space and when
30 said control valve is in said second state said

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apparatus provides humidification of air in the enclosed space.

2. A combination according to claim 1, wherein said humidifier is located between said fan means and the bottom floor and a fluid flow path is defined from the bottom floor level through said humidifier and through said fan means to the air inlet end of said first conduit means.

3. A method for conditioning air within the enclosed space of a building comprising:

- a) providing a fan adjacent a bottom floor of the building;
- b) providing a first conduit for discharging air from the fan to the exterior of the building;
- c) providing a humidifier in flow communication with the fan;
- d) providing a second conduit for placing the humidifier in fluid communication with the enclosed space of the building;
- e) operating the fan to remove air from the bottom floor level and discharge the air through the first conduit to the exterior of the building;
- f) selectively connecting the first conduit to the exterior of the building or the second conduit to the enclosed space; and

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- g) operating the humidifier when the second conduit is connected to the enclosed space.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein providing the humidifier in flow communication with the fan

- 5 includes locating the humidifier between the fan and the bottom floor and providing a fluid flow path from the bottom floor level through the humidifier and through the fan to the first and second conduits.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein selectively
10 connecting the first conduit or the second conduit is performed by means of a valve connected to the first and second conduits.

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